

# Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Clean Stream Program

Winter 2006 | Issue 8

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## Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to keep raw sewage out of our waterways and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in reducing raw sewage overflows and restoring the health of our streams.

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## CITY MOVING TOWARD CLEANER STREAMS AND HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOODS

*Council's Approval Sets Stage for Sewer System Overhaul*

### From the Director...

Thank you, Indianapolis!

On behalf of Mayor Bart Peterson, I'd like to thank the community for its strong support of our Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program.

On Oct. 31, the City-County Council approved Mayor Peterson's \$435 million, three-year plan to overhaul the city's sewer system. The plan includes expanding Indianapolis wastewater collection and treatment facilities, reducing flooding and drainage problems, and bringing sewer service to about 4,800 homes now on septic systems.

To fund the improvements, the council voted to increase sewer rates and stormwater fees over the next three years. For an average homeowner in Marion County, monthly sewer bills will rise from \$9.59 in 2005 to \$17.96 by 2008. Stormwater fees will increase by \$1, to \$2.25 per month beginning this spring. Also, a sewer connection fee of \$2,500 will be assessed on all new-home construction.

Even with the increase, Indianapolis rates remain competitive with cities across the state and country.

The benefits will be seen in neighborhoods across Marion County, as we implement projects that will:

- Continue the city's long-term plan to reduce the century-old problem of raw sewage overflows into White River, Fall Creek and other neighborhood streams;
- Eliminate the onerous Barrett Law process to convert neighborhoods from septic systems to city sewers;
- Address high-priority flood control and drainage issues throughout the county, including necessary repairs to Eagle Creek Dam; and
- Keep up with growing neighborhood needs for sewer capacity and sewage treatment.

In this issue of Stream Line, we are highlighting three projects that will be funded by the new revenue. For a full list of proposed projects, visit [www.indycleanstreams.org](http://www.indycleanstreams.org) and click on the "Projects" tab. You can search for projects by township, council district or project type.

The success of the Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods plan would not have been possible without the support of many neighborhood leaders, businesses, civic groups and individuals.

Although sewers in many communities are "out of sight, out of mind," in Indianapolis we see the importance of investing in this buried treasure. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.

Find us on the Web at: [www.indycleanstreams.org](http://www.indycleanstreams.org)



*Mayor Bart Peterson announces the Clean Streams - Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative on Oct. 3 with the support of DPW Director James Garrard, Councillor Lonnell Conley, other community leaders and students from Harshman Middle School.*

# THIRTY NEIGHBORHOODS TO GET SEWERS IN NEXT THREE YEARS

## City Ending Use of Barrett Law for Sewer Projects

The city's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program will bring sewer service to 30 neighborhoods with failing septic systems during the next three years.

"Septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail," Mayor Bart Peterson said. "We will now be able to bring sewer service to homes, eliminate unhealthy conditions and ensure that their sewage gets high-level treatment."

Under the city's Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP), the Department of Public Works (DPW) will replace failing septic systems with sanitary sewers in approximately 18,000 homes throughout Marion County by 2025. From 2006-2008, about 4,800 homes will be converted to sewers.

Projects planned in 2006 include the Bangor/Delaware neighborhood on the city's south side, which has suffered longstanding health and environmental concerns caused by septic systems.

In 1999, a Marion County Health Department survey found a 38 percent problem or failure rate of septic systems in Bangor/Delaware, including bleed outs, repairs, sewage backups and unsafe levels of *E. coli* bacteria in drainage ditches.

"*E. coli* and other potentially harmful bacteria that seep from failing septic systems are health hazards," said Anne Marie Smrchek, DPW project engineer. "The silt and clay soil in the Bangor/Delaware neighborhood is poor for septic waste absorption."

Resident John Carter, who built his home in Bangor/Delaware in 1963, has to pump his failed septic tank at least once a month.

"We've wanted to be connected to the sewers for so long," said Carter. "We'd be happy staying here forever if it weren't for the septic tank. During the winter and spring, you can smell the sewage in the neighborhood. It is embarrassing."

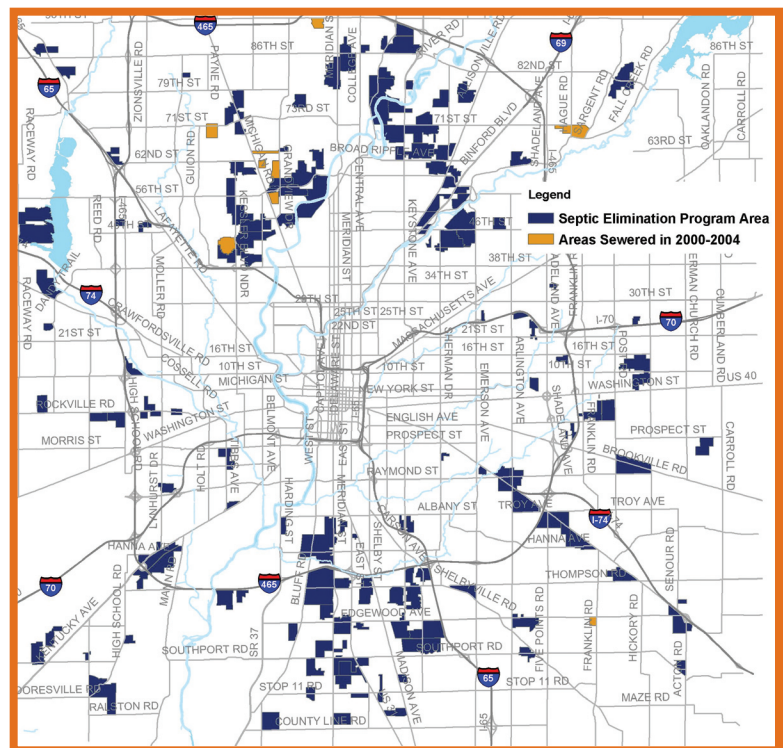
United Consulting Engineers, Inc., is the design engineer for the Bangor/Delaware project. Total project costs are estimated at \$11 million.

Under the new STEP program, the city will stop using the state's Barrett Law for all new septic conversion projects. Homeowners still will have to pay private property costs to connect to new sewers, including abandoning the septic tank, installing a lateral to the home, and a \$2,500 connection fee. However, the new policy is expected to cut the typical homeowner's total costs from \$11,000 to \$5,000. Actual costs will vary with each property.

For more information on the STEP program, visit our Web site at [www.indycleanstreams.org](http://www.indycleanstreams.org). To find out when a neighborhood is scheduled to receive sewer service, go to <http://imaps.indygov.org/zoning>.



**A STEP TOWARD CLEANER STREAMS  
AND HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOODS.**



This map shows neighborhoods with 18,000 homes that have been targeted for sewer service in the next 20 years. Areas shown in orange were sewered in 2000-2004. The remaining neighborhoods will receive sewers by 2025. An additional 12,000 homes on septic systems will need to be addressed as the country grows and sewer service extends into the remaining rural areas.



# NORTHWEST SIDE SEWER UPGRADES MOVING FORWARD

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is moving forward with repairs and engineering projects to improve sewer service for fast-growing neighborhoods on the city's northwest side.

The sewer improvements will increase the capacity of the Belmont North Interceptor sewer, which serves Pike Township, western Washington Township and northeastern Wayne Township.

Over the years, the growth of homes and businesses in this area has pushed the capacity of the Belmont North Interceptor near its limits. In addition, many of the aging interceptor lines are in need of repair.

The Belmont North Interceptor sewer begins near the intersection of West 86th Street and Zionsville Road as a 27-inch reinforced concrete pipe sewer and extends east and south to the intersection of 19th Street and Lafayette Road. There it merges with the Belmont West Interceptor to form the Belmont Interceptor, which carries sewage to the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

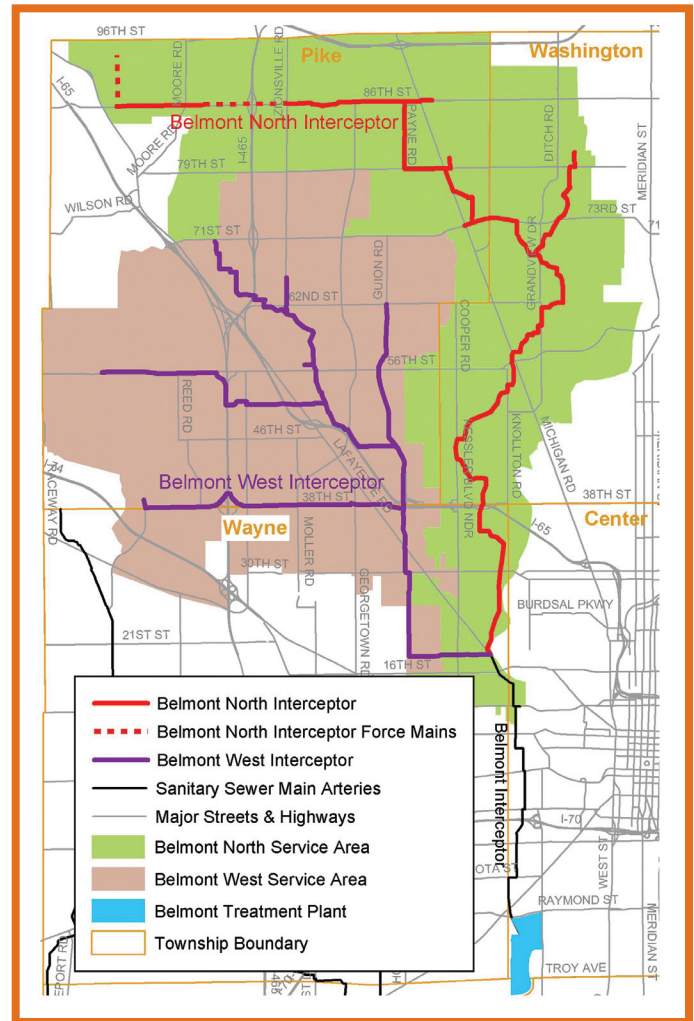
"Interceptors are the main arteries in our sewer system," said DPW Director James Garrard. "These interceptors collect sewage from smaller sewers that serve many homes and businesses. It's important to keep these interceptors in good condition."

The first phase of the Belmont North Interceptor upgrade will repair worn manholes to reduce the infiltration of clear water, said Mike Latos, DPW project engineer. The second phase will construct a parallel sanitary sewer line, which will split the sewage flowing from the northwest side and relieve the flow going into the original line.

"The parallel interceptors will increase the capacity and help convey the sewage south to the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment," Latos said.

The Belmont North Interceptor is a high priority of the city's Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, which details approximately \$370 million in necessary system upgrades over a 15- to 30-year period.

Planning, design, construction and inspection of the Belmont North Interceptor are expected to cost approximately \$100 million. HNTB Corp. and American Consulting, Inc., were the engineering firms involved in planning the new interceptor. Design and construction firms will be chosen in the future.



## DPW TACKLES SOUTHWEST SIDE STREET AND YARD FLOODING

Rain showers that bring street, yard and basement flooding should be just a memory in a few years for the Mars Hill, Lafayette Heights and Maywood neighborhoods on the city's southwest side.

Upon approval of bond funding, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will embark on several needed stormwater drainage projects in this area of the city, which was built on a mostly flat, low-lying flood plain.

A DPW community survey showed that 72 percent of respondents in these neighborhoods reported their streets had standing water for more than six hours after rainfall. Thirty-nine percent reported the standing water was greater than one foot.

"Standing water is a health and safety hazard," said Bill Bowman, DPW project engineer. "Frozen water on streets causes black ice and pot holes and deteriorates pavement. During warm weather, standing water can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes."

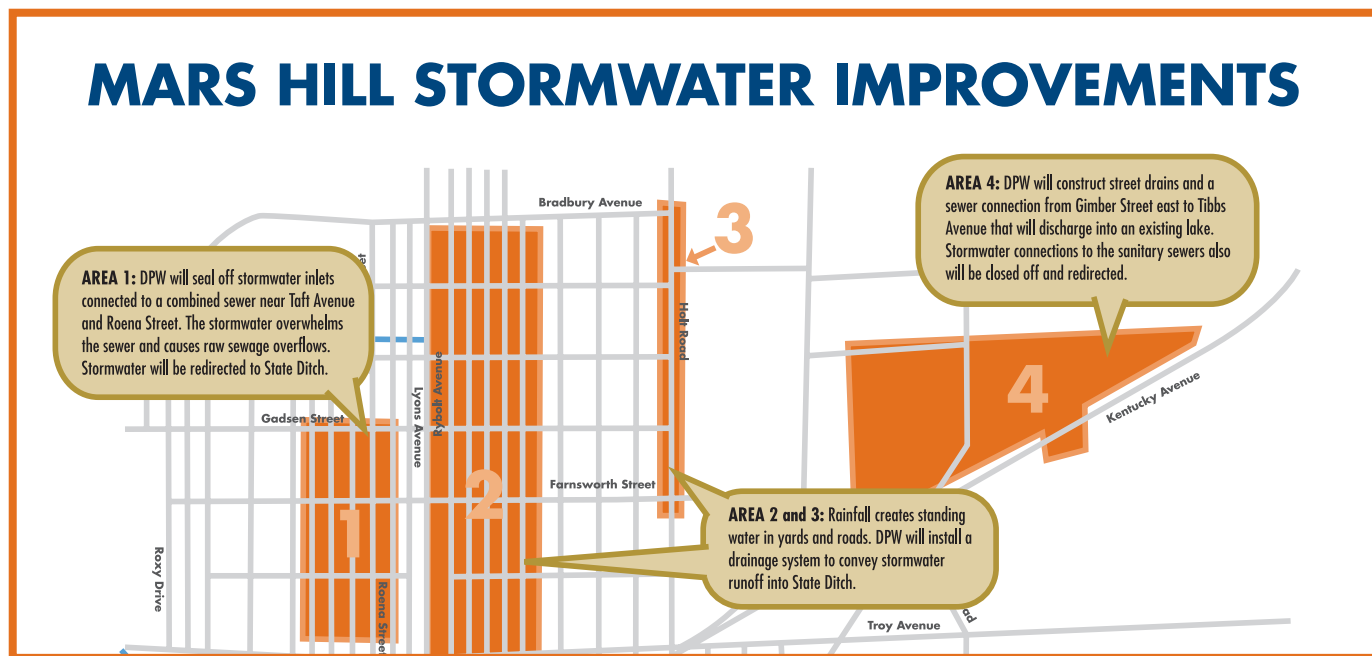
If runoff conditions were improved in this area, stormwater would drain to State Ditch between Hybolt Avenue and Lyons Avenue. However, insufficient drain inlets, roadside ditches filled with gravel, and levees built by residents prevent water from flowing properly to State Ditch, which itself is clogged with debris and occasionally overflows its banks, Bowman said.

*(continue "STREET AND YARD FLOODING" on Page 4)*

## STREET AND YARD FLOODING *(continued from Page 3)*

"The residents are ecstatic that the City-County Council approved the mayor's proposal," Bowman said. "They've been waiting for years for this kind of action."

Expected completion of the stormwater improvement project in the Mars Hill/South Wayne neighborhoods is 2007-2008 at a cost of \$3.2 million. RW Armstrong & Associates is the design engineer.



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